

# PAPERS READ

BEFORE THE

## LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1913.

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"History herself, as seen in her own workshop."

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EARLY LOCAL HISTORICAL ITEMS.  
EARLY SETTLEMENT AND HISTORY OF LITTLE  
BRITAIN TOWNSHIP, INCLUDING FULTON  
TOWNSHIP.  
MINUTES OF MAY MEETING.

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VOL. XVII. NO. 5.

PRICE TWENTY-FIVE CENTS PER COPY.

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LANCASTER, PA.  
1913.



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## Early Local Historical Items.

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In the proceedings of the Lancaster County Historical Society for the month of October, 1907, and for the month of December, 1910, may be found lists of certain items of early Lancaster county history gleaned from the "American Weekly Mercury," the earliest newspaper of Pennsylvania, beginning 1719, and ending its career in 1746. These items of greater or lesser importance furnish a certain department of the historical facts of our county, in its earlier days, that have value worth preserving. This newspaper is very rare, and it is believed that our Society ought to have a record of its early facts.

The article of December, 1910, brings the "items" down to 1738, and we shall now proceed with a narration of the same down to the discontinuance of the paper.

It is evident that the Proprietors had great difficulty in collecting their quit rents. In the issue of the Mercury of June 28, 1739, there is one item stating that inhabitants for several years past have neglected to appear at the place fixed in their patents, or by an Act of Assembly, to pay their quit rents. The item continues and says that inasmuch as the proprietor is agreed to take paper money for all lands patented before 1732, that the people ought to appreciate it and pay more promptly. Notice is then given that Richard Peters, the secretary of the Proprietor, among other places,

would sit at Lancaster, in the county of Lancaster, from the 7th to the 17th of October, where all persons who are one or more years in arrears are required to pay their quit rents, and, in default, the receiver of quit rents orders a distress to be made immediately, in pursuance of law.

In the issue of October 4, 1739, the election figures of Pennsylvania are set forth. However, only those of Philadelphia county, Chester county and Bucks county are given, showing how large the vote was for the different candidates. In Lancaster county, only, the names of those elected are mentioned, but the vote is not given, which is very much to be regretted. From the item it appears that the Chester county vote was 866, the Philadelphia county vote 555, and Bucks county 382. These are the highest votes of the officer receiving the highest number at those elections.

In the issue of November 29, 1739, there is an interesting account of the tremendous crowds that Rev. George Whitfield is drawing in Philadelphia and through Chester county, etc. About this time he reached Lancaster county and preached at Pequea, in the Presbyterian Church, but the paper does not have an account of this.

In the issue of March 11, 1740, there is an account of Benjamin Sterrett, going home from a neighbor's house, found dead by a small creek. I mention this only to show that the Sterrett ancestry lived in the western part of Lancaster county, around Donegal, as we all know, and in other sections. Chief Justice Sterrett, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, descended from them.

In the issue of April 7, 1740, there is a glowing account of the great joy



and the public demonstration, upon the declaration of war against Spain. The item sets forth that there was booming of guns and toasts were drunk to the royal family, etc., and a great love shown for England. While this is a narration of the doings in Philadelphia county, it is likely there was considerable excitement in Lancaster county also. It shows the great love that our county and the others had for Great Britain in those early days.

In the same issue, a notice is given to all who are willing to enlist in the important expedition on foot, for taking and plundering the most valuable ports of the Spanish West Indies that they may wait upon certain gentlemen in Philadelphia, and in Chester county and in Bucks county; and as to Lancaster county, directs that they report their names to Andrew Galbreth, Thomas Edwards and Thomas Smith, the late Sheriff, and ——— Cookman. We thus see that, as early as 1740, this county was active in a patriotic way. It is set forth that the gentlemen who were to receive the names of those willing to enlist are strictly prohibited from disclosing the name of any person who desires to have his name concealed. This notice appears in both English and German. I notice that in the Second Series of the Pennsylvania Archives, Volume 2, page 489, under the head of provincial officers and soldiers, we have for Lancaster county Captain Thomas Edwards, December 1, 1744; Lieut. Reese Morgan, December 1, 1744; "Earl Town, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania"—also Captain William Maxwell, Ensign James Wilkins, February 12, 1745-46 (raised in Rathmulen township, Lancaster county).

These were likely employed in King George's War. It appears that some Lancaster county soldiers deserted, as under the date of July 24 it is stated that Thomas Fitzpatrick and others deserted out of the service at Germantown, and are supposed to have gone to Lancaster county.

In the issue of September 18, 1740, we are given a view of how the people were divided on the question of King George's War. It will be remembered that John Wright, the presiding Justice of our Court, greatly opposed Governor Thomas, who was zealous in the war, and the result was that Wright was not reappointed to the Judgeship. The feeling against the war was strong throughout Lancaster county, but in many sections it was very rampant in favor of war. In the issue of the paper just stated it is set forth that, "during the later part of the last week," there was a personal review by the Governor of seven companies of troops raised, who were embarking for the West Indies, and that the troops were very cheerful and eager to go to the front, in order to preserve the honor and welfare of the British nation. It is set forth that these are the first drafts ever made in Pennsylvania. The article then says that it is no uncommon thing in these depraved times to see the Governors abide the reproaches and clamors of the representatives and to undergo pain and anxiety; but to see the Governor, contrary to his own interest, merely from the dictates of duty, loyalty and zeal for the safety and honor of our mother country, bravely encounter hardships, without any assistance from the Legislature, simply to fulfill the request of our Royal

Masters, reflects a resolution, a spirit unparalleled in the plantations. It seems that a considerable number of Lancaster county people, especially those bound to service, deserted their masters and joined the armies. Among others we find that a Daniel Hagen ran away from Andrew Caldwell, in Pequea, and others.

In the issue of October 2, 1740, election returns are again given, but the figures are given for Philadelphia county only. The exact vote seems to be 1,822.

In the issue of May 14, 1741, there is a long account of the great public rejoicing throughout Pennsylvania because of the taking and destroying of the forts and castles and the battery in the harbor of Carthagen, and attacking the Spanish admiral with his flag ship and sinking all the rest of the Spanish vessels. The article goes on to state that Pennsylvania contributed loyally to this victory, and there was a great demonstration about the State House. The Governor dined publicly with a large body of gentlemen. The evening was spent largely with rounds of cannon shot. Fifteen of the houses were illuminated. A great bonfire, which was concluded by a whole pipe of Spanish wine, ended the celebration. Lancaster troops were in the army that reduced the Spanish defenses.

In the issue of October 8, 1741, the election returns of Lancaster county are given, as are those of the rest of the counties, but no figures.

Nothing occurred until October 7, 1742, when election returns are again given.

In the issue of June 9, 1743, there is an account of a report that Indian outrages had been committed in Lan-

caster county; and also in Skohooniaty, or Jeniaty, but it was found that these things were false.

In the issue of April 26, 1744, there is a long account of the murder of John Armstrong, an Indian trader, in or near Lancaster, and two or three of his servants, by some of the Delaware Indians, and the reason for it as set forth, namely, that a Delaware Indian being indebted to Armstrong for some time, Armstrong seized a belt of wampum and a horse for pay—that a few days later this Indian and five others met Armstrong and his servants going from Philadelphia to Lancaster with a wagon load of goods, and demanded the horse back, saying that Armstrong was overpaid; that Armstrong refuses to do this, saying that he was not yet paid in full; that the Indians then turned aside to consult together, and agreed to murder Armstrong and his servants, so that the servants could not reveal the killing—that three of these Indians afterwards disavowed the agreement, but the others stuck to it, and rapidly followed Armstrong, and when they met him, the Indian who wanted the horse gave Armstrong a blow on the head with his tomahawk; that Armstrong struck back with his fist; that the two servants went to Armstrong's assistance; that one of the other Indians then presented his gun and shot one of them and immediately loaded his gun again and shot the other, and that by this time Armstrong was dead. The account goes on to state that they buried Armstrong, and the two men they threw into the creek or river, where the bodies were found afterward by inhabitants. The goods they conveyed three miles further and put them in a hole which they

dug in the ground. This account was given by the Indian who shot the man who was taken to the Lancaster jail. The account goes on to say that the king of the Delaware Indians promised to see that they were brought to punishment. There are several accounts of this killing in the Colonial records and other early historical books; but, as this goes into many particulars, that those accounts do not contain, I thought it well to give the substance of this newspaper report.

In the issue of June 21, 1744, an account is given of the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Commissioners from Maryland and Virginia setting out from Philadelphia together for Lancaster, to meet the chiefs of the Five Nations of Indians in the big Indian treaty about to be held in Lancaster to adjust differences that existed between some of the inhabitants of Virginia and a party of the Five Nation Indians, who had some difficulty about a year earlier; and also to strengthen the treaty of friendship between the Five Nations and the people of Pennsylvania. The account sets forth that several of the principal inhabitants of Pennsylvania went with the party from Philadelphia to Lancaster. The far-reaching effect and importance of this great Indian treaty, at which about 550 Indians were present, is recorded in all of the historical books, and I will spend no time upon it. The purposes of the treaty are set out in this newspaper report in a slightly different way from that stated in the historical books.

In the issue of November 15, 1744, it is stated that Mushmelon, the Indian who received the sentence of death on the 5th of November, for the

murder of Armstrong and his two men, was executed.

In the issue of May 9, 1745, there is part of a speech made by the Governor to the Assembly, in which he refers to a letter he received from the Governor of Virginia, enclosing the answer of the Catawba Indians to a message he had sent them, pursuant to the Lancaster treaty.

The American Weekly Mercury, from which we have taken the above items, always took the proprietary or aristocratic side in politics. In 1728 Benjamin Franklin began the Pennsylvania Gazette, which generally took the popular side—the side of the Assembly, or lower House, while the Mercury took the side of the Council, the upper house.

We will now give some of the important local items from the Gazette:

The looseness of government and its inefficiency here on the Susquehanna, just about the time our county was organized, appears in an item of the Gazette of April 12, 1729, as follows:

“We hear there are associated together a company of Irish robbers, the chief of whom are said to be one Bennett, whom they call their captain, and one Lynch, whom they call their Lieutenant, with Dobbs, Wiggins and many others, who skulk about this and the neighboring provinces; their villainies being to steal the best horses and load them with the best goods, and carry them off before people’s faces, which they lately done in or about Conestoga. It seems their usual practise has been to steal horses from this province and the Jerseys, and carry them to sell in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. It is said they began to grow

more numerous and had a place of rendezvous where they met to consult how to perpetrate their rogueries and to entertain all like themselves."

The petition asking for the erection of this county filed in Council refers also to the lawless conditions here.

In the issue of January 13, 1730, there is a poem on the different rivers and creeks of Pennsylvania, in which the writer personifies each of the streams and makes them tell their story.

A part of our own river's story is as follows:

"Last Susquehanna, vexed to meet delay,  
O'er rugged rocks rolled rapid on  
his way,  
Foaming with haste his Ruler to obey,  
The Father of the floods began to  
speak."

\* \* \* \* \*

"And all attend the banks of Chesapeake," etc.

The poem has no merit, and I did not copy our Susquehanna's own story. Modern poets, however, should not overlook the fact that old Susquehanna has been praised in verse over 180 years, at least.

The character of the neighbors of our ancestors here in the Conestoga Valley, in early days, is shown in the following article of January 13, 1730, in the Gazette (and in January 14, 1729 (30) in the Mercury):

"A very large panther was killed near Conestoga. He had gotten among some swine in the night-time, and the owner, hearing their cries, went out with a couple of dogs, which drove the panther up into a great tree. Ignorant of what it was that went up the tree, he made a fire near it, and left two

women to watch while he went to fetch a neighbor that had a gun. They fired at him twice, and the second time broke both his forelegs; upon which, to their great surprise, he made a desperate leap and fell to the ground near the man, who could just get out of his way. The dogs immediately seized him, and with another shot in the head he was dispatched."

Also in the Mercury of January 27, this year, there is an article showing the ruggedness of womanhood in those days. It is as follows:

"At Conestoga, near the beginning of this month, a stout action was performed by Christopher Franciscus. He was gone to bed and soon after heard a great disturbance among his sheep, which made him suddenly rise and send out his dog, himself hastening after to his sheep pen, where a large wolf was alarmed and was leaping over the fence just as the careful husbandman got there. The wolf, being delayed by slipping one foot into a cranny of the fence, the man had time and resolution to take him a strong grasp by the neck with one hand and by a hind leg with the other and so pulled him down; and shifting his hand from the wolf's leg to his ear, and forcing his knee upon the struggling beast's body and there held him, without being bitten, though very hard to prevent, because the trusty dog, worrying at the wolf's hinder part, the more enraged him. Meanwhile the man had not neglected to call for help. He was heard by a daughter of his, who had the courage and faithfulness to bring a knife and relieve her father by letting out the entrails of the wolf." Surely there were Amazons in those early Conestoga days!



A picture of the dangers and hardships of our forefathers here at home is given in the following item, from the Gazette of May 11, 1731:

"We hear from the county of Lancaster that on the 10th of February, one Ed Tadlock was found dead in the woods near Swattarrie Creek, having been missing eleven days. He came from Kent county, and was seeking a place to settle himself and family; but, losing his way, it was thought that he perished in the cold. From Lancaster we also hear that on the 26th of February one James Hendricks, riding in the woods near Susquehanna with his two sons, in pursuit of game, as they passed a narrow path in the bushes, the father's gun, which would fire at half-cock and had no guard to the trigger, went off and shot his son James in the back. Three years ago this boy, in February, killed his cousin, who was hunting turkeys with him."

An article of May 6th discloses the dangers from fires in the woods, etc.:

"From Lancaster county, we hear that on the 18th, the woods being on fire, some people, fearing their fence would be burned, went out to prevent it, and a child following them, wandered among the woods, and being surrounded by fire, the flames seized its clothes and it was burned to death."

In the issue of February 8, 1732, there is an account of the dangers and horrors some of our Conestoga Palatines went through in reaching their new home. The article is as follows:

"There is a letter in town from some Palatines who embarked at Rotterdam in June last in a ship bound for this place, but instead arrived at

Martha's Vineyard, an island on the coast of New England—containing an account that the ship, being four and twenty weeks in her passage, their provisions fell short, and in the last eight weeks they had no bread; but a pint of grouts was all the allowance for five persons per day. They ate all the rats and mice they could catch, and the price of a rat was 18d. and of a mouse 6d. and water 6d. a quart. That seven persons died of hunger and thirst in one night; and of 150 passengers, which came on board at Rotterdam, over 100 were miserably starved to death. When at length it pleased God that a sloop should meet them and conducted the ship into Homes-Hole, a harbor of the above-named island. In the first three days after their arrival fifteen more died, who had been reduced so low by famine that it was impossible to recover them. They write further that they think if they had continued at sea three days longer, they should all have died, no one being able to hand another drop of water. But the good people of the island are very charitable to them and do everything in their power to refresh them; so that many who were famished and near death began to revive, but none are yet strong enough to travel."

What was done for their relief appears in an article in the same paper, dated February 22. It is as follows:

"Governor Gordon has been pleased to write a letter to the Governor of Boston, in behalf of the distressed Palatines on Martha's Vineyard as follows:

" 'Sir—On the application of several Germans and others from the Palatines, now inhabiting this province, I am to address you on behalf of their

unhappy countrymen, who, after a passage of twenty-four weeks from Rotterdam, are lately arrived at a port in your government, near R. I., as I suppose. The enclosed being an exact translation of a letter from them to a Dutch Minister here, sets forth fully their calamitous circumstances, and the horrid barbarity with which they have been treated by Lohb, the master of the vessel, who seems to have formed a design to destroy them, in order to possess himself of their effects, which are said to have been very considerable, when they embarked. A gentleman of your goodness and humanity cannot but be moved with pity, for the miserable condition of these poor wretches, and with a just indignation against the author of their misfortunes. And as it will be an act of great charity to releave and protect the first, it will be no less a necessary act of justice to call the last to strict account. That if he cannot acquit himself of what is laid to his charge, he may reap the just reward of his oppression and cruelty.

“I am with much respect, sir, etc.

“ ‘Philadelphia Feb. 9, 1732.’ ”

And in the issue of May 18th we have a brief account of the slow progress of these suffering people on their toilsome journey from Boston to their final home with their brethren here in this land of Pequea and Conestoga.

It is as follows:

“Philadelphia, May 18—Saturday last arrived here 34 Dutch passengers, being those who came into Martha’s Vineyard half starved in December last. They have since been in Boston, where they say the people

took them into their houses and used them very kindly, so that many of them were at no charge, all the while they waited for passage; and, moreover, a collection was made among the inhabitants for their relief, by which £200 was gathered and given to them. The captain who brought them from Holland was prosecuted there on their account; but the accusations against him were not made good and he was acquitted and has since arrested those five who signed the letter for damages, and they are forced to remain behind to answer his action. 'Tis said the people who arrived here complain almost as much of being abused by those five, who were the chief persons among them, as they in their letter did of the captain."

It may be that some of our own ancestors were among that desolate body of men and women, fleeing to this land to escape persecution and poverty at home in Europe.

Another picture of the dreadful experiences which ignorant Palatines subjected themselves to in their tedious journey to our land is shown in an item of the same paper of October 19, 1732. It is as follows:

"Sunday last arrived here Captain Tymberton, in 17 weeks from Rotterdam, with 220 Palatines—44 died in the passage. About three weeks ago, the passengers dissatisfied with the length of the voyage, were so imprudent as to make a mutiny, and, being the stronger party, have ever since had the government of the vessel, giving orders from among themselves to the captain and sailors, who were threatened with death in case of disobedience. Thus, having sight of land, they carried the vessel twice

backwards and forwards between our capes and Virginia, looking for a place to go ashore, they knew not where. At length they compelled the sailors to cast the anchor near Cape May, and eight of them took the boat by force and went ashore; from whence they have been five days coming up by land to this place, where they found the ship arrived. Those concerned in taking the boat are committed to prison."

Those indeed were times that tried men's souls.

## The Early Settlement and History of Little Britain Township, Including Fulton Township

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The first survey and grant of lands in Lancaster county was in this township, Little Britain, which included in its early settlement the territory now called Fulton township, and constitutes the extreme southern end of the so-called Southern End of Lancaster county. If we were to define the "Southern End" as it is understood today, or the Lower End, we would say that it was the entire section lying south of the Buck ridge, and bounded on its western boundary by the Susquehanna, touching for ten miles along its southern end the historic Mason and Dixon line, and well-nigh thirty miles of it bordering upon and bounded on the east and southeast by the beautiful Octoraro, and all included now in the townships of Little Britain, Fulton, Colerain and the Drumores. This entire section is too rich in material for history and historical sketches to be covered within the scope of any one paper. Yet it is all so intimately connected, each with the other, as to be hard to separate and give anything like an intelligent story of its earliest settlement. However, I am constrained by the circumstances and the limitations of the paper to confine myself to the original township of Little Britain, which now includes Fulton township, originally a portion of the same. Within its limits and boundaries live the descendants of the people who have probably done

more in the making of history for Lancaster county and in bringing its name to the forefront, as the home of patriots, scholars and statesmen, than any other section of like extent or territory within our county's limits. Not only have they made the name of Lancaster county famous throughout the boundaries of our State, but its fame is not even limited within the boundaries of our own nation. It is not my purpose to detail either the history or lives of these most prominent of her men, but, rather, to put into the records of our Society some facts less prominent in the history of this territory, for abler pens and tongues than mine have already sounded the fame of the great men of this section.

It does not seem to be generally known, yet it is a well-established fact, that in Little Britain township the first land within Lancaster county limits was surveyed and granted under legal and governmental regulations. This tract was known in the original grant as "Milcom Island," and it was surveyed by John Wilmer in 1704, who, apparently, was of the section of Philadelphia, though it is conceded that this land was not occupied by an actual residential settler until 1715, thus antedating in the grant by six years the early settlement of the Mennonites, and being followed by actual warrants and settlement, but four years after that Mennonite settlement Milcom Island consisted of a tract of 1,000 acres, surveyed perfectly rectangular in form, exactly twice as long as it was wide, and extending the long way north and south. As nearly as it can be located to-day, it included that section lying southwest of Little Britain postoffice, also known as Elim, and extending down to and

beyond Kirk's Mills and Wrightsdale village, and within the boundaries, among others, farms of Lewis J. Kirk and Dr. James A. Peoples, both of whom are direct descendants of the very earliest settlers of this section; also the farms now owned by Dr. Ed. Wright, Howard Coates, James Paxson, the William King farm and the Brabsons and the Susan Griffith farm, who likewise were among the earliest in that section. John Wilmer transferred the warrant to Randal Janney a few years after obtaining it, and he, in turn, transferred it to John Budd and Sarah Morrey. In 1714 Budd and Morrey exchanged it for two warrants for 500 acres each near Philadelphia county, and it was surrendered to the proprietaries. Immediately thereafter, or on November 5, 1714, the northern half of this tract was granted by warrant to Alexander Ross, who afterward sold it to John Jamison, June 5, 1725, and the Joseph Jamison farm is now a portion of the original tract, so far as we have been able to discover. The exact time at which buildings were erected and permanent settlement made does not appear, but the indications point to the fact that it must have been very soon after the date of Ross' warrant thereto in 1714. The southern half was not settled until some twenty years thereafter, when patents were granted for it to Elisha Gatchell and Henry Reynolds. Each was of equal portion. This lower half runs down into the hills of Octoraro, and is much rougher and less easy of cultivation than the more northerly portions, which may account for the delay in its settlement. Before 1742 most of the surrounding land was located, and in the name of persons whose family name is still extant in that section, being such well-



known names as William Gibson, David McComb, Benjamin Delworth, Janet Jamison. Among the other earlier settlers, whose descendants are there to-day, are: William King, William N. Griffith, Sarah Phillips and Rachel J. Pickering, Samuel Carter and Seth Kinsey.

This section of our county is of great natural fertility, especially the valleys, with the large, magnificent streams of water running through them, while yielding to-day fertile pasture land and fine crops of wheat, corn and oats, hay and potatoes, that at that day were clad in immense forests of oak, chestnut and hickory; and no doubt the valleys of the Octoraro, the Conowingos and the smaller streams, Peters' Creek and their hundreds of tributaries, made this a great natural hunting ground of the Indians of that day. These same natural attractions soon became known to the very early Quaker settlement, which is now south of the Mason and Dixon line, though when settled was believed to be within the boundaries of Pennsylvania, and part of the lands granted to Penn by his sovereign. That section covered and included the villages and surrounding country, the Brick Meeting-house, Rising Sun and Colora, known by the general name of the Nottinghams.

As is well known, they were settled before the dawning of the eighteenth century, and, if I recall rightly, the two hundredth anniversary of the Nottingham settlement was held some fifteen years ago. The Nottingham settlement was composed almost exclusively of Friends, or commonly called "Quakers," and was very extensive and apparently prosperous, not only as a farming community, but in their religious organizations, and a number

of "Meetings" were established prior to 1700. Very early in the eighteenth century, or about 1715, or thereafter, this Quaker population was attracted to the northwestward across the Octoraro waters, by the fertility and natural resources of that land, attested by the evidence of the giant oaks, hickories, chestnut, poplars and sycamores, which only attain their greatest growth in the most fertile land. When this evidence was contrasted by the early Nottingham settlers with the scrubby growths of oak, pine and cedars that clad too many of the hills of their chosen sections, the Nottinghams, they began to move into it in increasing numbers, many of them stopping in the sections now in the limits of Little Britain, but more of them going further over into the fertile, smoother land of the Conowingo Valley, included in the present boundaries of Fulton township. Among the first to take up and patent lands in Fulton township was Emanuel Grubb, who, on December 10, 1713, or but three years after the Mennonite settlement, patented 100 acres of land, immediately adding 200 to it and soon thereafter 200 more. This section was granted by warranty, under the name of "Three Partners," and now includes those fine farm lands of Annie Wood, Cyrus Herr and brother, Levi Kirk and others, and includes the village of Pleasant Grove and vicinity. Soon following Grubb came William Teague, who, on June 6, 1715, secured a warrant for a tract known as "Teague's Endeavor," and one year thereafter another tract called "Teague's Forest." These tracts are now or lately were in possession of James Maxwell's descendants, the Davis Brown tract, the Jerry B. Haines tract, own-

ed by Eugene M. Haines to-day. We find that on August 24, 1726, an extensive tract, containing some 600 acres, was patented to Thomas Johnson. This tract seems to have covered and included the land extending up and around Peach Bottom, including the famous slate quarries of that section, later owned by Jeremiah B. Brown, a very prominent man in his day, and James A. Caldwell and the Sanders McSparran farm, also the large farm, known as Timothy Haines', now owned by Dr. A. H. Stubbs.

Another influx of settlers shortly followed, confining themselves more directly to the more heavily timbered land of the Conowingo Valley. Among the first of these was James King, whose descendants are many in that section, and the extensive family of Browns, who took up 600 or 700 acres in and about that section, extending from Wakefield, or Penn Hill, across to Fulton House, and as far south as Texas. These tracts were patented, one of them by James King, called the Cave Lands, on both sides of the Conowingo Creek, which at that time was spelled "Canarawango," which is an Indian word, and is interpreted to mean "canoe won't go." The first portion of this tract stayed in the King name for many years, and included the Bradley's Mill farm, the Annie Yocum farm, now owned by the Bradleys, and the Montillon Brown farm, now owned by D. F. Magee, on which farm is still standing the permanent homestead of brick, slate-covered, built after the log-cabin days, and still is bearing its date of 1760. North of that, further up the Conowingo, lands were patented by the Caldwells, the Ewings, the Stubbs, the Porters and the Bradleys. Very early in its history, the family of

Browns, usually designated as the "Nottingham" Browns, came into this section. Though I have not discovered that they were the original patentees of any of our earliest grants, but Jeremiah B. Brown patented an extensive tract, 600 acres, apparently covering and including the section now known as the Day Wood farm, the Annie Wood farm at Goshen village, the Levi and Slater Brown section and probably some portions of the adjoining farms. He took his patent under the name of "Goshen." As we know, according to Biblical history, this was the "land flowing with milk and honey."

Whatever may have been its claim to that title in its earliest days, no one can now go into that section, and, from its gently rolling hilltops, near the residence of Neal Hambleton, look over these broad fields of grain and meadows, dotted with hundreds of lowing kine, that literally furnish the milk to the creameries at Fulton House, Goshen, West Brook and Bradleys, and fail to feel that this section is most appropriately named.

Last summer the writer, on the afternoon of a most beautiful day, attending a social gathering on that old historic meeting-house, at Penn Hill, which lies just a little westward up out of this valley, sitting in the center of the meeting house, looked out of the open door to the east. Within the focus of his view, from the center of the meeting house, confined by the jambs of the door, opening to the east, a magnificent horoscope was given, including the center of Goshen; and a fairer, more fertilly-productive stretch of hillside, meadow land and gently-receding fields of grain and grass has seldom come within my view at one glance.

The Browns, who have descended from the original Jeremiah B., and, we think, his brothers, included in their stock, in those early days, members of the Legislature, a Judge of our Courts, and later that masterful mechanic and engineer, William Brown, engineer-in-chief of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and likewise the present representative in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania from this county, J. Hay Brown, formerly of the Bar of Lancaster county.

Still further northward and eastward up the Conowingo and towards the Britain township line of to-day, in 1743 a tract was located by William Montgomery, and remained in the Montgomery family for 100 years, and his descendants still remain thereabouts. This covers the land now owned by Jason Walton, Lindley Patterson, Wm. Black and Robert Black, and westward of that the same year, 1742, William Fulton took up 393 acres, lying along the Conowingo Creek, which were surveyed to one James Gillespie, which tract was increased by three other pieces, making it a tract of nearly 600 acres. This seems to have covered what is now known as the Frank C. Pyle mill, the Smedley property, John Landis Herr's property and probably the Dr. Gryder property, now Shoemaker's. The present Pyle's mill was early erected on this property, and is the third, and is among the oldest mills in the southern end of the county.

In this connection it may be mentioned that the building of mills quickly followed the clearing and farming of the land, as they were a necessary part of the industries, which were required in the lives of the early settlers. As stated above, the Pyle mill was among the early ones, but

what was known as Woods' mills, close to the present Goshen store, probably antedated it by a few years; and at or about the same period, a mile or so lower down the stream, the Bradley mill, owned by Frank Bradley, the son of Amos K. Bradley, was built on a tract which was patented under date of February 25, 1743, and the Annie Woods mill, southeast of Pleasant Grove, was erected at a very early date.

But the very first mill of all built was in that section in 1733, and was known as King's mill, and located partly on land now owned by D. F. Magee and partly owned by Augustus Heeps, and stood close to the bridge called the "twin bridges," spanning the Conowingo between these two farms. Only the old marks of the foundation walls and race are now visible, all vestige of the mill having disappeared years ago.

Returning again to the east side of this section, we find among the very earliest patents preceding the Menonite settlement by three years was a warrant dated June 10, 1707, to Edward Pleadwell, for 700 acres of land. It was in the extreme southern edge of Little Britain township, and included what is now famous as Woods' chrome banks, lying on both sides of the Octoraro creek, in a bend of the creek, below Lea's bridge. Whether there was any actual settlement of this land at or about that time it is hard to determine; but that the value of the land was known and recognized and first, we may say, discovered by the early settlers of the Nottingham Quaker section, is very apparent. In this section, centrally located, on the 10th of January, 1792, was established the meeting-house and burial-ground known as "Eastland," the founders and

first trustees of which were Henry Reynolds, Reuben Reynolds, James Harlan, Henry Reynolds, Jr., and Abner Brown, and six acres and thirty-five perches of land were set aside for the purposes of the meeting-house. The meeting, though not large, is still maintained. The meeting-house at Penn Hill was founded many years prior to this, however, and was first conducted as a branch of the Nottingham monthly meeting. On the 14th of June, 1749, it was erected into a separate meeting, at least the proceedings looking to that end were instituted at that time, and John Smith, Joshua Johnson, Joshua Pusey, Thos. Carleton, Robert Lewis and James Robinson met at James King's residence, and finally, on May 11, 1752, reported in favor of building a meeting-house, and on March 17, 1758, a conveyance for the land from Michael King was made to Samuel Boyd, Joshua Brown, Isaac Williams and Vincent King as trustees, and a house was erected. It is located on the summit of the ridge between Conowingo and Puddle-Duck creeks. There is a thriving congregation belonging to this meeting to this day including many of the most prominent families of that section. Their forefathers for several generations back sleep in the adjacent cemetery, and to read the names on the lowly tombstones, dating back 150 to 160 years, is an epitome of the biographical history of that section.

Farther eastward and northward in Little Britain township, and overlapping into Coleraine and into the Drumores, we find to-day the descendants of the Scotch-Irish race, whose ancestors settled through that section at a later day, but who played no less important part in the history of the

Lower End, from that period at which they came. We find among them the names of Fulton, Ramseys, Whiteside, General Steele, Hayes, Patterson, McCaullagh, Linton, Clendennin, Fergusons, McConnell and many others that were of the fighting Irish blood and in strong contrast to the peaceful Quaker. Each played a useful and necessary part in the up-building of this section, but the names of the latter only become prominent when war overtook our country and their services were needed as soldiers and commanders and the story of the Revolution and their story is one, and it will be another one for me to relate. which I hope to do at no distant day.

### JOHN C. LEWIS.

Before the reading of the above paper, Mr. Magee stated that he had drawn much of his information and data for the same from the notes and writings of one John C. Lewis, Esq., a noted Justice of the Peace and surveyor of the Southern End, with whom he was well acquainted, and, incidentally, gave a short and interesting talk on the man, somewhat as follows:

John C. Lewis, Esq., was for many years a noted character in the Lower End, and his peculiar talents, acquirements and eccentricities made him a noted figure in that section for many years. He came into the neighborhood in the early fifties, and began teaching school when he was a young man, and his early life before that time was a mystery. After his death it developed that he came from Montgomery county and his friends came on to claim a small estate which he left. He taught school for a number of years in Britain, Fulton and Drumore townships.



He was an omnivorous reader, and, being possessed of a remarkable memory, his fund of knowledge on all subjects was very extended, and only his peculiarities and eccentricities in his methods and habits of life kept him from attaining the distinction to which he would otherwise have become entitled. He was a good school teacher as long as he followed it, but in later life he devoted all of his time that he cared to devote to labor to land surveying and conveyancing, and to the duties of his office as Justice of the Peace, which he held for many succeeding terms in East Drumore township.

His active life there extended from about 1850 to 1892, when he died, though the last few years of it, through illness, he was not able to do much surveying. During this long period he had surveyed the greater number of the farms in the Southern End, some of them several times, and his wonderful memory, it is said, served him so well that he could walk into a thicket of underbrush and leaves and, after looking around a while, would say, "that corner ought to be about here," and, thrusting down his Jacob's staff, would hit the stone fairly. He was very fond of history, and as he had, in searching titles, traced to their first source, the titles of nearly all farms of that section, his fund of information on this line was wonderful, and always accurate and complete.

He was for some years County Surveyor, and took great interest in this work, and other surveyors soon found he was their master when it came to establishing correctly, disputed lines.

His great fault was his utter disregard for the conventionalities of dress

or cleanliness. Dressed at his best he looked like a tramp, only perhaps a little bit dirtier and more completely unkempt and shabby. There are many stories told of him in this regard. Most of them, however, will hardly bear retelling here, but among them is the following, which shows at a glance the character of the man. I should state that he always used the very best of language, absolutely correct in grammar, diction and spelling, and wrote a very fine hand, as all of his work amply attests.

The story is that at one time when he was County Surveyor he had occasion to meet several high officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad to locate a certain line. The officials came on the ground and waited some time for the County Surveyor, thinking he had not come. Seeing an old man sitting by the roadside a little distance away, they went to him to ask if he had seen the Surveyor. They found him sitting on a stone, dressed mainly in an old blue army overcoat, a dirty shirt rolled back at the collar showing a brawny, hairy chest, pants with but few buttons and not enough patches to cover his nakedness, a pair of old plough shoes were on his feet, minus strings, and no stockings, and all crowned by a hat in which his thick shock of grizzly hair formed the roof; he sat contentedly munching his lunch, consisting of five cents' worth of crackers and cheese from the neighboring store. In answer to their inquiries for the missing Surveyor he arose, and, with a perfect Chesterfieldian bow and military salute, he said: "No doubt I am the gentleman whom you seek. I am at your service when you are ready."

He lived and held his office in a lit-

tle eight by ten shop about a mile below the Unicorn. This office was stacked on all sides with many old deeds, title briefs and notes of survey innumerable, but so utterly careless and dilatory did he become in his older days, that the rain and the weather came through and destroyed the most of them, and at his death but little remained except those for which he had actual use.

He had been a soldier in the war and drew a pension, but seldom spoke of his services, but talked rather the gospel of peace and good will as the philosophy of his life.

# Minutes of the May Meeting

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Lancaster, Pa., May 2, 1913.

The regular monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Historical Society was held this evening in the society's room. President Steinman was in the chair, while Miss Martha B. Clark filled the duties of secretary.

The librarian, Miss Bausman, presented the following report:

Bound Volumes—Kittochtinny Historical Society, Volumes I and III; Harbaugh's Harfe; Dr. Higbee Memorial Volume, gift from Franklin and Marshall College Library; Celebration of Penn's Landing, by The Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, October 26th, 1912; Journals of the Continental Congress, Volume XXI (purchase).

Magazines and Pamphlets—Cambridge Historical Society; Penn-Germania for March; Linden Hall Echo; Bulletin of New York Public Library.

Bible printed in 1755 (among several names written in the Bible is that of Jacob Glatz, an early Lancastrian), from Mrs. J. H. Rathfon; Map of the United States and Territories showing the possessions and aggressions of the slave power, from Prof. C. N. Heller; picture of a Conestoga wagon and pamphlet entitled, "Ninety Links in the Chain of Years," from Walter C. Hager; old marriage certificate of Isaac Ralston, printer and publisher of "The Ladies Monitor," New York, to Maria Endress at Lancaster, November 21, 1799, and copy of "The Ladies Monitor," of 1801, from

Mrs. Sentman; a sketch of Father Ferdinand Farmer, from R. M. Reilly, Esq.; a list of works relating to the Germans in the United States; an account of monies paid by George Graeff, Esquire, Treasurer of Lancaster county, from 1796 to 1799; two copies of "The Guardian," Volume II and V, a monthly publication by Rev. H. Harbaugh; report of State Librarian of Pennsylvania for 1911, from F. R. Diffenderffer.

A vote of thanks was extended the several donors.

Charles Ezra Bowman was elected to membership, and the names of the following were proposed: Charles G. Baker, Esq., and Henry C. Carpenter.

The subject of having the society's various papers copyrighted was taken up, and after being discussed, Mr. D. F. Magee introduced the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the president, through the secretary, shall, when any papers of the society are published in other magazines, call the attention of the publishers to the fact that due credit should be given this society."

President Steinman named the following as the committee to plan for the celebration of the society to be held in the fall: W. U. Hensel, Judge Charles I. Landis and F. R. Diffenderffer. The general theme of the celebration will be "Lancaster County in the War for the Union."

Two papers were read, D. F. Magee, Esq., having as his subject, "Early Settlement and History of Little Britain Township, Including Fulton Township." The author prefaced his paper with a brief reference to John C. Lewis, a resident of the lower end, who was a school teacher, noted scrivener and a man of great knowledge.

H. Frank Eshleman, Esq., had as his subject, "Early Local Historical Items," culled from the American Weekly Mercury, the earliest newspaper in Pennsylvania.

After a discussion of the papers the society adjourned.



12. June